

Story 1493 (Dictated)

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The Laz and the Air Fare for Trabzon

Temel bought an airplane ticket for the flight from Ankara to Trabzon. When the time came to board the plane, Temel walked down the aisle of the plane until he found a seat he liked, and he sat down there.

As the other passengers came along one by one, a lady stopped at Temel's side. She looked at her ticket, and then she said, "Sir, I believe that you are sitting in my seat

"No, this is my seat," answered Temel. "I paid for a ticket, and this is where I want to sit

While the lady was standing there talking with Temel, a stewardess came along. She looked at the lady's ticket and then at Temel's ticket. Then she said, "Sir, you are sitting in this lady's seat. Your seat is over there

When Temel still did not move, Dursun¹ came over. "Is there some sort of problem here?" he asked. "Maybe I can be of some help.

The stewardess said, "This man is sitting in the wrong seat. The seat belongs to this lady."

¹The Turkish audience would not have to be told that this is a Laz anecdote. Temel and Dursun are two of the male names most commonly used in Laz tales. Although other Turkish citizens may have these names, they are probably nowhere else as common as they are along the Black Sea coast. Therefore, as soon as they are mentioned, they usually suggest the Laz stereotype.

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"Let me look at your ticket," said Dursun to Temel.

Dursun read the ticket. Then he handed it back to Temel.

"You do want to go to Trabzon from Ankara, don't you?"

"Yes," answered Temel.

"Well, then, you must take the seat with your number on it. That is the one that will take you to Trabzon!"